

## **REMARKS**

Please reconsider the application in view of the following remarks.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant hereby elects Invention I for continued prosecution with traverse. The restriction requirement is respectfully traversed as follows.

Examiner has required restriction between the inventions:

(I) claims 1-17 and 23, drawn to a valve, classified in class 137, subclass 625.48, and (II) claims 18-19, drawn to a nozzle, classified in class 239, subclass 284.1; and

(I) as the above, and (III) claims 20-22 and 24, drawn to a washing system, classified in class 15, subclass 250.01.

Examiner reasoned that restriction was required because the inventions are distinct, based on the following reasons: Inventions I and II are related as combination and subcombination. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that: (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations. (MPEP § 806.05(c)).

Applicant respectfully disagrees. Claims 1-17 & 23 recite a valve. Claims 18 and 19 recite a nozzle arrangement with a valve according to claim 1, thus incorporate claim 1 verbatim. Accordingly, because claims 18 and 19, the combination claims, require the particulars of claim 1, the subcombination, restriction is not proper.

Similarly, claims 20-22 and 24 recite a washing device with a valve according to claim 1 by incorporating claim 1 verbatim, and therefore require the particulars of claim 1, the subcombination. As such, restriction is also improper for these claims.

For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully requests that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

Meanwhile, in response to the election of species requirement, Applicant hereby provisionally elects a species as shown in the embodiments in Figure 4. Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 11 and 14 read on Figure 4. And, Applicant submits that claims 12, 15, 16 and 17, in addition to claim 1 as indicated in the office action, are also generic to all species since they cover all the embodiments in Figures 3-8.

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account No. 50-0591, under Order No. 17102/013001 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: May 26, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By   
for Jonathan P. Osha T. Chyan Liang  
Registration No.: 33,986 #48,885  
OSHA · LIANG LLP  
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800  
Houston, Texas 77010  
(713) 228-8600  
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)

153406\_1